Cesare Deluisi

English 101 – Dr. Sherry

Sororities

**Previous thoughts**

Our cars were packed, our parents lectured, and we looked out the window thinking our whole lives were about to change as we drove to move into college for the very first time. We thought as we gazed out the window and wondered if all the stories, movies, books, or anything that educated us about college life in previous times was about to come true. As our parents drove away after moving us in, it was time to explore. Were all parties crazy? Am I going to gain the freshman 15? Will I not hear my alarm clock to wake up for my first class? Why do all these dumb, pretty, blondes pay so much money for friends and to be in a sorority? It was about time we find out all these answers for ourselves.

I started my process with interviewing my two roommates who both belong to different sororities, and wondered what was their first though about sorority life before they decided to go ahead and be apart of one.

*“What was your opinion on sororities when you first came to Bloomsburg? I thought it was the most shallow thing ever, I thought people paid way too much money for friends, and I was totally against it but my mind was so wrong and I want everyone to give sororities a fair chance because it was the best decision I have made in college so far.”*

*“What was your opinion on sororities when you first came to Bloomsburg? I thought sororities were a great way to get involved on campus, but I didn't think I would have the money to join one. So I waited till the time came and then made up my mind.”*

From the information gathered from my roommates, I came to wonder that if my roommates who are now apart of sororities were so bitter and had so much hatred towards them. What are some of the other stereotypes college freshman have towards sorority girls?

**Stereotypes & Explanations**

*"Why should I pay all that money to a fraternity to have friends when I can make friends for free”?* In the reading, “My freshman year” this statement was said by the author that you pay for friends when you decide to join a sorority. The money you pay towards a sorority is for dues, not friends. Dues cover things like rituals sister activities, philanthropy, improvements to the house if the chapter has one, and many more things. What dues do not cover is alcohol, and other necessary things needed for a party scene. “If I am paying for my sisters, I sure am not paying enough”.

*“Sorority girls are dumb and don’t care about doing well in school”* I blame the movie “Legally Blonde” for this stereo type and if you haven’t seen the movie, it makes sorority girls look for lack of better words, dumb. First of all, you must be obtaining some form of an education to be in sorority. Most schools, and here at Bloomsburg requires a strict GPA of 2.5 to even be able to go through rush. Let’s just say you have the GPA to go through rush, but that is not the end once you are committed to a sorority, you must now be committed to maintaining not only the university’s GPA, but also your sorority’s GPA if you want to avoid probation. Once you become an active member sisters make it known to you that school has to still be your number one priority. These strict rules of following GPA requirements are something that is taken very serious here at Bloomsburg.

*“All sorority girls sleep around and party excessively”* Before coming to Bloomsburg, I will admit that I even gave in to this stereotype of sorority girls based on things I have read in the media. But now on the other side, I rest my case. As I have just said, sorority girls have a certain GPA to maintain how can they afford to go out and party every night? Sorority girls do go out on the weekends, that are something that I cannot deny. But all of our organized gatherings that occur on Thursday nights is for us to stay in touch and get to know the other Greeks on campus. Yes, I will admit there is alcohol involved but that doesn’t mean everyone is drinking, and don’t forget this is a college campus and many other non-Greek parties also go on every weekend just as much as Greek gatherings. And as for sleeping around, sorority girls are normal people just because you give them letters doesn’t make them any different they are very much capable of maintaining a long-relationship and saving themselves for someone special someday.

*“To be in a sorority, you must be pretty or hot”* I too, have heard this one for you. All I can say is there is a sorority for you. Yes I will agree with your stereotype that yes, some sisterhoods are all about superficial things, like beauty, body image, and being known as the “hottest sorority” on campus. But people who are like that conform together and make their own sisterhood, while adding new people who are just like them. You do not join a sorority because of it’s reputation or because you want to be apart of something on campus that has a great name, you join because you can see yourself calling these girls your sisters and making lifetime long friendships with them.

*“Hazing”* It’s always hard to say something to defend this stereotype because you never really know what you are getting yourself into when you say you are going to pledge a sorority. On a good note, not every Greek organization hazes. And the ones that do, say it’s based on tradition and every sister in order to become a member had to go through with it. Its up to you if it’s something you can handle then in the end you will look back and say that I was hazed and it made me into a stronger person. It’s not something you can really agree with until you actually make it through it. So therefore that will be something you need to decide for yourself.

**My thoughts**

I know that I cannot change everyone’s opinions and thoughts they may have towards sororities and Greek life. I believe that it is worth it to try and make people fall in love with Greek life the way I did, after being so against it in the beginning of my college career. Like anything in college, you must first experience something before truly giving it a fair shot and that is what happened with Greek life. Throughout research, I have come to a realization that people do have strong opinions toward sororities and I don’t in any way deny any of these stereotypes from the things I have also read in the media, but with experience I have grown to realize that being Greek and a member in a sorority that stereotypes about these organizations are only as true as much as you are willing to believe them. I recommend everyone to give it a try because it truly is a great experience. I’m not saying that it will make your college experience better and you will have nothing to do in college if you don’t join one because I am not saying that at all, Greek life isn’t for everyone. If you are questioning it though, it’s always worth the shot!

“From the outside looking in, you can never understand it. And from the inside looking out you can never explain it”